



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014

No. 143

## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 20, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We come to the end of a week where we have welcomed the newly-elected Members of the House who will join the 114th Congress, honored a great world statesman in Vaclav Havel, and voted on the first of many difficult bills to be considered at the end of the 113th Congress.

We now approach a week during which all Americans will gather to remember who we are: a Nation generously blessed not only by You, our God, but by courageous ancestors, faithful allies, and the best good wishes of people everywhere who long for freedom, who would glory in the difficult work of participative government, and who do not enjoy the bounty we are privileged to possess.

Bless the Members of this assembly and us all, that we would be worthy of the call we have been given as Americans. Help us all to be truly thankful and appropriately generous in our response.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BILIRAKIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will now entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### NO AMNESTY OR BENEFITS FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this summer's crisis on the border was the result of President Obama's 2012 decision to grant amnesty to some illegal immigrants. Now, the President is planning to grant amnesty to every illegal in the country—almost—millions more. To make matters worse, these illegal immigrants may also become eligible for government benefits. That is just wrong.

What the President is doing is illegal. Hardworking American taxpayers didn't sign up to foot the bill for unlawful, illegal immigrants.

Mr. Speaker, the President is ignoring the American people, our Constitution, and our way of government. America is a country of laws, not men. My constituents are outraged at the President's imperial actions. American people want, need, and deserve a President who respects and follows the Constitution.

On behalf of my outraged constituents, I am fully committed to stopping this illegal action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

### WESTERN NEW YORK PUMMELED BY SNOW

(Mr. HIGGINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, over the past 2 days, the western New York community has been pummeled by unrelenting lake-effect snow. Areas of the city of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs were blanketed in over 5 feet of snow, and it continues to fall.

Stranded in cars and trapped in homes, people are unable to access potentially necessary emergency services. Over 150 miles of the New York State Thruway closed, and thus far, the storm has claimed the lives of eight people.

Snowstorms are a routine part of western New York winters, but even with advance notice, storms of this capacity are nearly impossible to prepare for.

I applaud the leadership of Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Mayor Byron Brown, and Governor Andrew Cuomo. Their emergency management teams have been hard at work and will not rest until the snow has been cleared and everybody affected is safe.

However, it is not just those trained for emergencies that have turned out.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H8135

Neighbors helping neighbors shovel and dig out are common sights around western New York. The city of Buffalo once again proved itself to be The City of Good Neighbors.

#### TARPON SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL OUTDOOR ENSEMBLE

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my alma mater, Tarpon Springs High School, and its outdoor ensemble for winning the 2014 Bands of America championship.

This is their sixth championship in 14 years, Mr. Speaker. They have won a total of 11 grand championships in Bands of America regionals in Georgia and Florida. The Tarpon Springs marching band has also been dubbed Grand Champions at the Seminole Sound Spectacular for the past 13 consecutive years.

The Sponger band, named for the early 20th century sponge divers who migrated from Greece to Tarpon Springs, Florida, are the single most dominant and accomplished marching band in Florida.

Congratulations to the students; the band leader, Kevin Ford; and the parents involved in this year's championship. "Go, Spongers!" Mr. Speaker, I am so proud.

#### ACA OPEN ENROLLMENT

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Affordable Care Act. Over 8 million Americans have signed up for private health insurance plans for 2014, almost 20,000 in the district I represent.

Overall, the number of uninsured residents in our district has declined by 8 percent. 33,000 people in the district purchased quality, affordable care through the new health insurance marketplace. 11,000 young adults were able to continue coverage through their parents' plans. For 84 percent of those enrolled in the health insurance marketplace, the cost of the average plan was reduced to \$72 a month.

Unfortunately, 52,000 individuals who would otherwise have health insurance remain uninsured in our district because Texas did not expand Medicaid.

The open enrollment period for 2015 through the marketplace began Saturday, November 15. I encourage all Americans to take advantage of the opportunity to access quality, affordable coverage and enroll.

Please, for your family and for our community, we need more people insured so they have that certainty.

#### JONATHAN GRUBER GRANT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, Jonathan Gruber, "smart" MIT professor, ObamaCare architect, who has had to apologize for repeatedly calling the American voters stupid, has received millions of taxpayer dollars from Federal and State governments.

He now has an NIH—National Institutes of Health—grant that adds up to \$2 million. This grant is for an analysis to determine how people choose their Medicare part D prescription drug plan. That might be something good for CMS and HHS to know, but it is far from the real kind of medical research we expect NIH to be doing.

Just a few weeks ago, the Director was saying they lacked enough money to fund Ebola vaccines. That was before it became widely known that they were funding a grant for Swedish massage for rabbits and other outrageous grants.

We expect NIH to fund groundbreaking medical research to prolong life, develop medicines, to cure and treat diseases, not economic research by a man who is now infamous for insulting the American public.

Dr. ANDY HARRIS and I wrote the Director with questions about this grant. I hope we hear soon before another check goes out the door.

#### AURORA STAFF WENT ABOVE CALL OF DUTY DURING EMER- GENCY OUTAGE

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the air traffic controllers and FAA safety and technical employees who went above and beyond the call of duty surrounding the recent emergency situation in Aurora, Illinois.

Following unprecedented circumstances, the Chicago center staff kept the surrounding air space operational, safe, and efficient during the 17-day outage. On several different days during the outage, Chicago O'Hare, which serves my constituents in the 14th District, was the Nation's busiest airport.

Controllers from two dozen facilities around the Midwest and also the FAA Command Center worked together to keep the flying public safe and the system operating at close to capacity.

The air traffic controllers, technical operations personnel, and management at Chicago center and in all facilities throughout the Midwest and the National Airspace System have proven why the United States has the safest, busiest, and most efficient system in the world.

The public should be proud of the teamwork and professionalism that they demonstrated as they met a difficult challenge and kept America safe.

#### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE OVERREACH

(Mr. DAINES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAINES. Mr. Speaker, when it comes to illegal immigration, President Obama has long said that he has no legal authority to extend executive amnesty. Now, I don't say this very often, but you know what? I agree with him.

His job as President is to enforce the laws that Congress has passed, but now, President Obama seems to have forgotten that he is not a king. President Obama's plan to extend executive amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants is an unacceptable abuse of power that goes against the will of the American people. As the President said himself, "That's not how our democracy works. That's not how our Constitution is written."

President Obama should abandon this planned executive overreach and work with Congress to secure our borders and strengthen enforcement of the existing immigration laws.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

#### STANDING WITH PRESIDENT OBAMA ON EXECUTIVE AUTHOR- ITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this is not the first year or the second year or the third year of the administration. In actuality, we are going towards the end of the term of this administration.

From my perspective as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security Committee and the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security on the Committee on the Judiciary, every single year, this administration has extended its hand of collaboration to this Congress to intervene in the desperate lives of those who have been stolen from their children, deported, or families that have been disunited, if you will, wanting to be reunited.

I stand with the President tonight as he gives his message to America that we are a humanitarian country and that "under my constitutional authority, as can be documented by scholars across this Nation, I have the authority to be merciful to give humanitarian relief," citing the U.S. v. Arizona case in 2012, when Justice Roberts said that the President has the authority for humanitarian relief.

Every difficult decision, unfortunately, in this Nation, from freeing the slaves to making the armies or the militaries integrated, took courage from Presidents. Lyndon Baines Johnson had courage when he signed the